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ABSTRACT

The report is organized into three sections. Section 1, "Attendance and Organization of Work," is a general summary giving information on place and date, attendance, election of officers, and agenda, and summarizing the opening meeting, the consideration and adoption of the final report, and the closing meeting. Section 2, "Summary of Debates," includes two statements assessing the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and noting the actions taken in regard to two other agenda items, orientations for future policies complementary to the Plan, and examination of a global framework guideline. Section 3, "Decisions, Recommendations, and Resolutions," covers the meeting's actions in regard to peace solidarity efforts, Latin America and Caribbean Youth Decade, measures for eliminating drug traffic, and regional youth problems. Also included is an appendix explaining and describing proposed policies to complement the Regional Plan of Action. (TRS)

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REPORT OF THE SECOND LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

(Montevideo, 26-29 August 1985)

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CONTENTS

		Paragraph	Page
I.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	1-23	1
	1. Place and date	1	1
	2. Attendance	2-8	1
	3. Election of Officers	9	2
	4. Agenda	10	2
	5. Opening meeting	11-20	2
	6. Consideration and adoption of the final report	21-22	4
	7. Closing meeting	23	5
II.	SUMMARY OF DEBATES	24-72	5
	Assessment of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year (item 3 of the agenda)	24-68	5
	a) Statements by the Secretariat	24-37	5
	b) Statements by countries and organizations	38-68	8
	Orientations for future policies complementary to the Regional Plan of Action (item 4 of the agenda)	69	13
	The global framework. Examination of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth elaborated by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (item 5 of the agenda)	70-72	14
III.	DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS	73-74	14
	Solidarity with the efforts to achieve peace in Central America that are being made by the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group	-	15
	Latin America and Caribbean Youth Decade	-	16
	Measures for eliminating drug traffic	-	17
	Problems of youth in Caribbean island developing countries	-	18
Annex	- Policies to complement the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year	-	19

/I. ATTENDANCE

I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

1. The Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 26 to 29 August 1985.

2. Attendance

2. Representatives of the following member States of the Commission took part in the meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. The United States Virgin Islands were represented in the capacity of an Associate Member State of the Commission.

4. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) (International Youth Year Secretariat).

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies were also present: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

6. Representatives were present from the following United Nations specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation (ILO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNICEF).

7. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) (an agency of the Organization of American States (OAS)).

8. The following non-governmental organizations were present at the meeting: a) Category I, Central Latinoamericana de Trabajadores (CLAT), of the World Confederation of Labour; International Council of Women (ICW); International Organization of Employers (IOE); League of Red Cross Societies; Women's International Democratic Federation; World Federation of Democratic Youth; World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU); b) Category II, AFS International/Intercultural Programs, Inc.; Bahá'i International Community; Boy Scouts World Bureau; Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities); Catholic Relief Services (United States Catholic Conference, Inc.); Experiment in International Living; International Social Service; Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO); World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; c) Register, Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Uruguay); Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO) d) Other non-governmental organizations, Asociación Internacional de Radiodifusión (AIR); Comisión Pro-Derechos Humanos Juveniles (CODEJU) (Chile); Lions International-The International Association of Lions Clubs; Movimiento Interamericano de Adultos Mayores (MIDAM); Non-governmental Committee for the International Youth Year; World Commission on Rural Dwellings.

/3. Election

3. Election of Officers

9. The meeting elected the following Officers:

Chairman:	Uruguay
First Vice-Chairman:	Venezuela
Second Vice-Chairman:	Spain
Third Vice-Chairman:	Dominican Republic
Rapporteur:	Argentina

4. Agenda

10. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Assessment of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year

   a) The situation of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean in the middle of the 1980s and the activities of ECLAC in fulfilment of the Regional Plan of Action

   b) Country reports

4. Orientations for future policies complementary to the Regional Plan of Action
5. The global framework. Examination of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth elaborated by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year
6. Consideration and adoption of the final report.

5. Opening meeting

11. At the opening meeting, statements were made by Mr. Norberto González, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Dr. Adela Reta, Minister of Education and Culture of Uruguay. A message was read out from H.E. Mr. Belisario Betancur, President of Colombia.

12. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC began by expressing his appreciation to the Government of Uruguay for its hospitality. He went on to say that the current period was characterized by certain challenges which reflected ethical issues, i.e., the need to work towards the achievement of more equitable societies which would be based more on the region's own resources and on its own innovative and creative capacity.

13. He went on to note that, despite the economic and social progress that had been made in the region, there was still a persistent heterogeneity, and external relations had also become more diversified and complex. The region still had only an incipient capacity for technological progress, which so far had consisted mostly of imitative applications failing to take account of the conditions inherent to the

/region; that

region; that had resulted, in the current crisis situation, in high unemployment, especially amoung youth, and some societies of the region were finding that many of their young people, who were their most valuable resource for social transformation and future development, were emigrating.

14. He stressed the need for the region to respond creatively to the existing technological challenges, including those pertaining to micro-electronics and biotechnology, with a view to creating new and dynamic comparative advantages.

15. Turning to the question of participation, he said that although much progress had been made in the field of education, there were still differences in the dissemination of education and in the access it gave to jobs. In the future, participation in political parties and trade-union activity should be increased and made compatible with the discipline necessary for growth. Youth had a crucial role to play in that regard. Young people should be active subjects who, exercising a critical spirit, should facilitate the changes that were essential in order to deal with the challenges of the future.

16. Finally, he drew attention to the activities carried out by the United Nations in the field of youth and their special relevance for the region, which had a high proportion of youth among its population. The Meeting provided an excellent opportunity to assess the achievements of the International Youth Year and to exchange ideas and experiences regarding future options, both for national action and for regional and international co-operation in connection with the subject of youth.

17. The representative of Colombia read out a message addressed to the youth of the region by H.E. Mr. Belisario Betancur, President of Colombia. In that message, he said that the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year prepared by ECLAC was a document which offered fruitful prospects provided that its recommendations were put into practice immediately and that it was reviewed periodically to measure the results of its application against evolving social circumstances.

18. In that respect he emphasized some aspects of the Latin American situation which called for the wholehearted and priority attention and action of young people. Firstly, it was necessary to design a development project that put an end to the present competition in waste and destruction, as part of a great movement of worldwide solidarity; i.e., it was necessary to promote eco-development based on the equitable distribution of worldly goods. Furthermore, it was essential to achieve and preserve national, regional and world peace by promoting coexistence, justice and equity and a true internationalist vocation. Finally, it was necessary for Mankind to build a Utopia of freedom by combining the lessons of the past with the aspirations of the future.

19. The Minister of Education of Uruguay said that among the factors which made the situation of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean a source of concern and prompted the authorities to seek solutions were the economic crisis, which affected the educational and employment possibilities of youth, and changes of a political and social nature, which took young people from a state of authoritarian

/rigidity to

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rigidity to another stage of democratic freedom. In circumstances of crisis it was necessary to take measures to protect young people from a state of despair and to try to ensure that they spent their time in beneficial activities. The change from the rigidity of an authoritarian régime to a democratic system based on freedom could result in disorientation and disorder, so that it was necessary to take measures to channel the dynamic force of young people in the right direction. She stressed that all policies connected with young people should be essentially of an educational nature, since it was necessary to prepare young people for the science and technology of tomorrow and for a smooth adaptation to a process of change in a context of freedom and social justice: thus, the great challenge for the governments of today was in the field of education.

20. The arms available to governments at the present time were not weapons of destruction but ideas. The future that was desired for the new generations must be won on the basis of respect for all ideologies. After quoting a message from Mr. Carlos Vaz Ferreira, the distinguished Uruguayan philosopher, to a group of young Argentines in which he told them that progress in social activities required the collaboration of the different generations and the united efforts of men of goodwill from all generations, and that the division into good and bad, and into good and bad persons, cut across the division into generations, since it would be absurd and regrettable to pretend that goodness, generosity and idealism were the temporary monopoly of a particular age-group, she ended by declaring that at the present time all men of good will were committed to the task of giving future generations the happiness they deserved.

6. Consideration and adoption of the final report

21. After the Rapporteur had presented the draft report, the participants in the meeting adopted it together with its annexes. In that connection, the United States delegation requested the inclusion in the report of the following statement: "The United States delegation refers to paragraph 19 of the document 'Policies to complement the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year'. That paragraph contains two sentences which refer to the problem of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Government of the United States strongly supports a peaceful resolution of that problem. At the same time, it cannot associate itself with the description of the problem which appears in this document. The United States delegation therefore requests that the Report of this Conference reflect the fact that one delegation indicated that it could not concur with these two sentences. The United States delegation also requests that this be reflected in the document itself". Three other delegations also expressed their disagreement with the sentences in question.

22. The participants in the meeting entrusted the Chairman, the representative of Uruguay, with the presentation of the meeting's final report and annex to the United Nations General Assembly at the latter's fortieth session, through the intermediary of the Uruguayan delegation, when the General Assembly takes up the subject of youth.

/7. Closing

7. Closing meeting

23. At the closing meeting, statements were made by Mr. Julio Aguiar, Deputy Minister of Education of Uruguay; by the representatives of Brazil and of Nicaragua, on behalf of the participants; by Mr. Germán W. Rama, Director of the ECLAC Social Development Division, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, and by Mr. Luis Salas Ochoa (representative of Venezuela), in his capacity as First Vice-Chairman of the meeting.

II. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

Assessment of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year (item 3 of the agenda)

a) Statements by the Secretariat

24. Opening the discussions on item 3 of the agenda, the Secretariat presented the document "Latin America youth in a time of change and crisis", noting that it was linked with the document presented at the First Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year, entitled "The present situation and future prospects of Latin American youth". The two documents were complementary the last-named referred to the trends in Latin American societies and the role of youth in the last three decades, while the document prepared for the present meeting dealt with the consequences for youth of the changes in social structures and the present economic crisis.

25. After noting the importance of young people in the population of the Latin American countries and the differences between the countries according to their demographic evolution, reference was made to the significant changes in the social structure which had taken place in the last thirty years. The population had become predominantly urban; a dominant role had come to be played by industrial occupations (in some cases involving advanced technology); and social, community and production support services had emerged. Starting from low levels of culture where illiteracy predominated, universal access to primary education had been achieved, together with very significant development of secondary and higher education, to such an extent that one out of every six young people had now reached the latter level. Social relations had been intensified as a result of urban life and the mass media. New social groups had emerged which were defined not only by type of employment and income but also by education and opinions. Finally, important changes had taken place in the average income of the population and the type of consumption, parallel with the internationalization of markets and societies.

26. Those changes benefited young people in many respects, but at the same time they had some negative repercussions on their situation. Young people now attained much higher levels of education than their elders, they were enabled to enter the modern areas of activity, and they received the cultural products of universal society. Consequently, there was a virtual transformation of the structure of society, so that the young generation was now qualitatively different from its

/elders. This

elders. This process did not favour everyone, however: on the contrary, young people who did not have educational opportunities or who were only able to complete a few years' schooling remained in a relatively more marginated situation than ever. That was reflected in the cultural exclusion of ethnic minorities or subcultures, early entry into unskilled work or the formation of a family while still an adolescent, or the social reproduction of marginality as regards income, culture and political participation.

27. Up to the beginning of the 1980s, economic growth had been a driving force of change, but of itself that was not enough to bring about full social development. It was still important, therefore, to work for the development of citizenship along three lines, namely, in the social sphere, as a means of satisfying all the basic development needs of the new generations; in the field of education, to provide training for an increasingly complex world, every aspect of which was affected by science; and in the political sphere, as a way of participating in the choice of the future course of society.

28. After the cycle of major transformations which had taken place during the early 1980s, a twofold crisis had occurred. One aspect of the crisis had its origin in external sources related to the indebtedness of the region and the resulting restrictions on development, while the other was the result of the social, cultural and political disequilibria implicit in the development models followed in the past. The societies of Latin America, and, consequently, their young people as well, were faced with special difficulties arising from the fact that their future seemed uncertain and the present posed problems which made it difficult for young people to participate fully. There were uncertainties regarding the development of world society, regarding the prospects of the scientific and technological changes taking place in the developed countries and their impact on the region, and regarding those projects deemed to be most suitable, viable and desirable for the development of Latin American societies. Those uncertainties gave rise to further uncertainty as to the values and models that might be transmitted to young people. Despite the discrepancies, however, there was a universal belief in the role of young people as intellectually qualified human resources (both in the area of the exact sciences and in the area of social matters) and in the need to establish, together with young people, a process of social participation that would lead to a more democratic society. It was also generally agreed that there was a need for greater uniformity with regard to education and access to material and cultural advantages for youth. The crisis-related restrictions on participation which existed under the present circumstances represented a challenge and called for innovativeness.

29. The crisis had increased unemployment and underemployment amoung young people. Those phenomena no longer affected only the poorer groups, but cut across society as a whole. At the same time, the education which some young people had already achieved was wasted, as they had to work in jobs which did not allow them to make use of their skills; that in turn affected the validity of education as a tool for training young people to perform certain roles in society. Those phenomena, which were reflected in the fact that youth represented about half the unemployed of the region, had occurred following a period during which the social expectations and hopes of participation had risen among young people;

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in other words, after a cycle of optimism regarding the transformation and modernization of society, in which young people had voiced strong demands concerning participation in political life.

30. Throughout history, the youth of Latin America had played an active role in politics and, independently of the causes they had defended, had earned the recognition of their societies. Behind the conflicts which had pitted young people --usually the more educated ones-- against society, were opposing views and conflicts as to how society should be organized during an intermediate stage of development and sharp economic and social changes. The commitment of youth to a democratic social order was the basis for the permanence of such an order and a condition for its constant renewal. From that standpoint, the difficulties experienced by youth and their exclusion from the institutions of education and employment might have negative implications for their identification with the political institutions of a democracy.

31. The report of the Secretariat concluded by pointing out that the restrictions arising from the current crisis could be viewed as providing an opportunity for training highly qualified young people who would be capable of taking on the task of development during the forthcoming third millenium. In that regard, material restrictions could be overcome by introducing innovations in training and employment programmes. The incorporation of young people as agents of change was essential to the achievement of the goals of development, peace and participation in the framework of a democratic society.

32. The officer in charge of the International Youth Year Secretariat said that he wished to convey the greetings of Mrs. Leticia Shahani, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and of Mr. Mohammed Sharif, Executive Secretary of the International Youth Year. He thanked the Government of Uruguay for its invaluable and efficient assistance in the holding of the meeting.

33. He also expressed his thanks to ECLAC for its activities in preparing and celebrating the International Youth Year in the region.

34. He said that, thanks to the remarkable efforts made by governments, to the efficient operation of many of the National Co-ordinating Committees and to the activities carried out by a large number of youth organizations, it could be said that the International Youth Year (IYY) had been a significant event and would have a lasting impact on the region.

35. The developing countries had carried out many activities in connection with the International Youth Year, and many of them had established new permanent structures devoted to youth work. At present, 158 countries had national co-ordinating committees or other co-ordination mechanisms which had been created as a result of the celebration of the International Youth Year.

/36. Acting

36. Acting on several proposals by governments and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations General Assembly had decided, at its thirty-ninth session, to devote several meetings during the fortieth session to the question of youth and to designate it as the World Conference on the International Youth Year. At that session, the "Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth"*/ that had been prepared by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year would be adopted as a tool to support future activities relating to youth at the national, regional and international levels.

37. Finally, he stressed that the lesson which the Secretariat for the International Youth Year had learned in preparing the activities for the Year had been that youth must be considered not as objects but as members of the social process, as full-fledged protagonists who must be respected as individuals and whose right to participate in decision-making must be recognized. Only thus would they play a significant and creative role in action aimed at dealing with the crisis and in development strategies. Only thus would the ideals of Participation, Development and Peace have a real rather than a purely rhetorical meaning.

b) Statements by countries and organizations

38. The delegations referred to the current situations in their countries, on the basis of the diagnostic studies presented by the Secretariat at the first regional meeting on youth, held in 1983 in San José, Costa Rica, and at the present meeting. Several delegations accompanied their statements with documents describing the national situations in detail, especially as regards education and employment. This section of the report only seeks to assemble and set forth the general lines of the views expressed by delegations, summarizing the main points repeatedly made in the various statements.

39. The main common feature of the statements made by the countries and organizations was their concern with the effects of the shortcomings in the development model and the impact of the present crisis on the situation of youth. Considerable concern was also to be noted for the achievement of higher educational levels for the youth of the region and the adaptation of education to the many scientific, technological and other changes to be observed in the world. In spite of the progress made in the incorporation of young people and in the fostering of greater awareness of the problems of youth in societies and governments, it was noted that there was still a lack of knowledge about the training of youth and their insertion into society, and that the social awareness in that respect was still insufficient, thus hindering the formulation of suitable youth development policies.

40. There was consensus regarding the enormous importance of the full participation of young people for society in general and democratic society in particular. One delegation noted in that respect that young people must emerge from their traditional situation of onlookers and consciously participate in the changes that needs take place in Latin American and Caribbean societies.

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In that connection, several delegations recalled their countries' status of "youthful nations", with a very high proportion of the population consisting of young people. At the same time, many delegations noted that in their countries young people entered organizations and began to exercise the right to vote at an early age. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of organizations of juveniles and students as means of enabling young people to gain access to social participation.

41. The participation of young people as social actors in the process of change of the region and as active subjects of youth policies was also stressed by most delegations. In that respect, there was consensus that young ideas could make a big contribution to that process and that it was important to promote facilities for the development of such new ideas among young people, as well as for their dissemination to the rest of society, in keeping with the active role assigned to youth in the processes of construction and consolidation of democracy in the region. Several delegations noted the risks created for democratic coexistence by the apathy, passivity or attitudes of rejection produced among broad groups of young people in the region, above all by the shortcomings of the development model and the effects of the crisis on young people's possibilities of becoming really integrated into society, which was reflected in marginalization, extreme poverty, and also desperation, skepticism and rebelliousness among youth.

42. Many delegations also expressed their view that some traumatic experiences of political developments had affected the relations between societies and their young people and had been partly responsible for forms of behaviour contrary to the full development of the human personality. In that connection, some delegations made special reference to what they called the "gravity" of certain youth situations, giving examples from their own countries. Other delegations, however, while not disagreeing with the foregoing, preferred to emphasize the positive aspects of their governments' actions in that field.

43. It was also noted that full participation by youth demanded full citizenship, both on the political and on the cultural and social levels, which in many societies still represented a challenge to be taken up by society as a whole and above all by young people themselves. One delegation said that although it was quite true that in order to solve the problems of young people it was necessary to solve the problems of society as a whole, it was nonetheless true that young people themselves were an effective instrument for that purpose. Another delegation noted the need to articulate youth participation around projects capable of uniting the desires of young people, emphasizing that in its country many valuable initiatives had come from the local level and had subsequently been adopted by the national centres.

44. In short, with regard to the topic of participation there was consensus among the delegations on the decisive role of the social and political participation of young people in the tasks involved in the building of society and the overcoming of the difficulties currently being faced by the countries of the region.

/45. As

45. As regards the topic of development, the delegations laid very special stress on the present situation of youth in the fields of education and employment, viewing this question not only from the point of view of purely economic factors, but also from that of the social considerations already referred to in the foregoing paragraphs on participation.

46. The topic of education was dealt with by all the participating delegations and was generally given a prominent place in their statements, thus endorsing the view expressed by the Chairman of the meeting at the opening meeting, to the effect that "youth policy is basically education policy". Reference was made to national efforts in this field, ranging from literacy campaigns to advanced research activities, while technical training and university education were also mentioned. The delegations concurred with regard to the important role of education in processes of nation-building and consolidation of democratic forms of coexistence, and it was declared that restricted access to education and the consequent lack of professional training tended to perpetuate poverty cycles and to prevent the participation of young people in development.

47. With regard to the relationship between education and development, the general concern was expressed that the current world circumstances posed a challenge to the region in the sense that it must achieve technological and scientific modernization; to that end, a major role must be assigned to training. In that respect, reference was made to the need for the improvement of training in mathematics, data processing and the sciences in general.

48. Mention was also made of the role of the social sciences in the education of the younger generations and in preparing them to deal with the problems of their societies.

49. Some delegations also referred to other matters pertaining to education, programmes to provide fellowships and assistance for students, the establishment of the proper relationship between manual and intellectual work with a view to reversing the tendency to separate them, and the need to train people to value all work as such. Reference was also made to the problem of poor assimilation of the contents of basic education, which was frequently reflected in mediocre results in subsequent stages of education, and the fact that many young people had to work at the same time that they were studying, which represented an overload of responsibilities. Among the steps some countries had taken to solve problems in the field of education were special worker education facilities, special educational programmes, the financing of education through budgetary measures which made it compulsory to set aside a certain percentage of tax revenues for the maintenance and development of education, and others.

50. With regard to employment, it was clear from the statements made that the participation of young people in the economically active population had increased and that, at the same time, the number of young people who were looking for work but were still unemployed had also increased. A large number of delegations stressed that the task of providing productive employment for the large contingents of young people who were joining the work force represented a challenge, and they

/mentioned steps

mentioned steps that had been taken in that regard. It was also mentioned that, although the problem was particularly serious in the developing countries, it also affected the developed countries.

51. Some representatives indicated that, as a result of the economic crisis, there had been a worsening of the work situation of young people, who in many cases had taken up own-account work or become unpaid family workers. Hence, there was an increase in the trend towards underemployment.

52. Mention was also made of the rapid increase in the supply of young female labour in occupations that were not always consistent with the educational levels of the young women. The economic recession had affected women to a greater degree.

53. In that respect, the representative of the ILO described that organization's activities in promoting the employment of young people, particularly with regard to the development of employment in rural areas and in the informal urban sector. It was also working to help young people find jobs that were suited to their education and training.

54. Emphasis was also placed on the situation of certain groups of young people --such as indigenous youth-- whose position, with regard to national and cultural integration, and, specifically, with regard to work, was anomalous in several respects.

55. Several delegations also referred to the question of peace --one of the goals of the International Youth Year--, making it clear that the countries of the region aspired to achieve development within the framework of peace. In that connection, several delegations referred to the peace initiatives of the Contadora Group and expressed their unreserved support for those efforts. One delegation said that without peace it was not possible to achieve development, and without development, peace could only be precarious. He stressed that if peace and development were to be achieved, there must be a joint willingness to work to that end among all the sectors of the community, including the young people. One delegation said that war was the fundamental problem which affected the youth of his country, inasmuch as it diverted resources from development and exacted an extremely high cost in young lives and in human suffering.

56. In addition to the three topics of the International Youth Year --participation, development and peace-- the delegations stressed others which were also matters of great concern to their governments.

57. In that regard, mention was made of the question of drugs, which was of particular concern to several governments of the region. It was important to channel the dissatisfaction of young people, which was often due to the excessive expectations of consumerism characteristic of a certain social model, by mobilizing the people to create a new style of development and by strengthening their cultural identity, the latter being understood not as a past that was often fraught with misunderstandings and enmity, but rather as a future and as a shared project. In connection with the question of drugs, one delegation said

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that, because young people represented an invaluable human resource for the development of nations, drug abuse and its sinister implications for youth represented an extremely serious problem. In that regard, he drew attention to the fact that the Quito Declaration, signed in August 1984, included a request to the competent international organizations to classify drug trafficking as a crime against humanity and an appeal for the creation of a world or regional fund to be used to assist developing countries that were affected by drug trafficking.

58. All delegations referred to national activities in connection with the International Youth Year. In that respect, they noted that most of the countries of the region had set up institutional structures, with a view to the application of long-term policies, to co-ordinate the work of the various State units and the activities of the non-governmental organizations in the field of youth. That fact raised hopes that the topic could become part of an integrated economic and social development approach.

59. Several delegations mentioned events to be carried out as part of the International Youth Year, among them the holding of a Latin American Congress of Young Ideas. They also enumerated the activities being carried out or scheduled for that purpose, including artistic, literary and sporting competitions, sensitization actions, campaigns in the mass media, etc.

60. Another important topic referred to in the debates was that of the environment. It was declared that future generations could not be left a barren and empty world as their birthright and that the environment therefore represented a further challenge that must be dealt with.

61. Several delegations stressed the importance of sport and recreative activities in the formation of healthy young people and gave details of the programmes being applied in their countries to promote sport.

62. Several delegations of developed member countries of the Commission expressed keen interest in co-operation between the youth of their countries and young people of developing countries of the region. One delegation said that the young people of its country had a great awareness of the value of such co-operation and many of them who were concerned with the future of mankind engaged in various forms of international voluntary service. Another delegation of a developed member country of ECLAC said that its country's co-operation with the Latin American nations in the field of youth took place at a number of levels: a) at the government level, and especially with the governments of countries which had recently returned to democracy; b) at the expert level; c) at the level of leaders of youth movements, and d) at the level of young people in general.

63. One delegation noted that regional integration could be of importance in this sphere too, especially for the smaller Caribbean countries.

/64. Several

64. Several delegations mentioned the effective assistance in the proper execution of International Youth Year activities provided by the Trust Fund set up for that Year and expressed their interest in the continuation of that Fund's operations in the future.

65. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), after stressing the special difficulties of young refugees, urged those Latin American countries which had not already done so to accede to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol on the status of refugees. She also appealed to the representatives of the various countries to give their support, at the OAS General Assembly to be held in November, to the conclusions of the 1984 Cartagena Colloquium on Refugees, and especially those relating to the expanded definition of refugees.

66. The representative of UNESCO said that his organization, most of whose programmes were basically aimed at the new generations, pursued the following objectives in the field of youth activities: i) promoting research on youth in the various regions of the world; ii) furthering the dissemination and exchange of information on and for young people; and iii) helping to prepare policies and execute programmes designed to secure the participation of young people in all aspects of the life of their societies. Among the many activities carried out by UNESCO in that field was the recent World Youth Congress held in Barcelona in July 1985, in which over 500 representatives and observers from 118 countries and 98 non-governmental organizations had taken part.

67. The general conclusion of the debates on this item of the agenda was that in the view of the meeting the problems of youth were a reflection of the problems of society as a whole, and concern for youth also meant concern for the future of the societies of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was inseparable from the challenges of long-term development.

68. As one speaker pointed out, the phenomenon of youth participation had attained its great force and significance only in the present century, and it had now become an indispensable force in the building of society and democratic ways of life. Some experiences recounted by delegations made it possible to foresee the possible future role of youth in this respect and the desirability that youth itself should be a social actor in a process having as its aims respect for the life and dignity of young people and of all human beings, full organizational and political participation by youth, access to education and health services, and complete equality of opportunity.

Orientations for future policies complementary to the Regional Plan of Action (item 4 of the agenda)

69. With regard to this item, the delegations approved the text given in the annex.*/

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*/ See also paragraph 21 of this report.

/The global

The global framework. Examination of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth elaborated by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (item 5 of the agenda)

70. In the discussion of item 5 of the agenda, the representative of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs presented the document "Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth" (section III of document A/40/256) prepared by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year for submission to the General Assembly for approval at its fortieth session.

71. The meeting took note of this document with satisfaction, considering that it effectively compiled the experience accumulated during the preparations for the Year and that its guidelines represented a useful instrument for governments, the United Nations System and youth organizations in following-up youth-related activities after 1985.

72. The meeting also expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs --especially that done by the International Youth Year Secretariat in preparing for the Year-- and emphasized the need to continue co-operation within the United Nations System and between that System and governments and non-governmental youth or youth-related organizations in order to provide long-term responses to the problems, challenges and hopes of youth under the slogan: Participation, Development, Peace.

III. DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

73. The meeting adopted by consensus the Policies to Complement the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year, which appear in the annex to this report.

74. The meeting also adopted by consensus the following resolutions: a) Solidarity with the efforts to achieve peace in Central America that are being made by the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group; b) Latin American and Caribbean Youth Decade; c) Measures for eliminating drug traffic; d) Problems of Youth in Caribbean Island Developing Countries. The text of these resolutions is given below.

/SOLIDARITY WITH

SOLIDARITY WITH THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA THAT ARE BEING MADE BY THE CONTADORA GROUP AND THE LIMA SUPPORT GROUP

The Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year,

Recalling the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter concerning non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 38/10 of 11 November 1983 and 39/4 of 30 October 1984, concerning support for the efforts of the Contadora Group,

Seriously concerned about the Central American crisis and the conflicts to which it has given rise - a crisis which has its roots in economic and social inequalities and in structures which limit free expression and popular participation in the political processes that reflect the essential aspirations of each society,

Reaffirming, in accordance with the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year, the important role that young people should play in working for peace in the region,

1. Expresses its fullest support for the efforts being made by the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group to achieve peace in Central America;

2. Urges all States, particularly those having links and interests in the region, to promote the speedy conclusion and signature of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America as a legal instrument setting forth the political commitments to understanding in the region, and to work for the effective implementation of this Act;

3. Reaffirms that the efforts promoted by the countries of the Contadora Group to achieve a peaceful and negotiated settlement in the Central American region are an expression of the political will and solidarity of the Latin American and Caribbean countries and represent the only viable way to achieve peace and restore harmony and co-operation among the countries of Central America.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN YOUTH DECADE

The Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year,

Realizing that the many activities carried out in connection with the International Youth Year have confirmed the existence of fundamental problems among the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind that the studies which have been carried out concerning these fundamental problems can serve as a basis for designing policies aimed at solving them,

Convinced that these problems cannot be solved unless the solutions are placed within the context of a medium- and long-term programme, which calls for a sustained effort at the regional level,

Recalling that the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year refers to a third stage of the Plan, covering the years 1986 to 1995,

Decides to designate the period 1986-1995 as the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Decade.

/MEASURES FOR

MEASURES FOR ELIMINATING DRUG TRAFFIC

The Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year,

Considering that drug trafficking and drug abuse are spreading throughout the world and that many governments have difficulty in sustaining a struggle which requires the outlay of enormous financial resources in order to combat, prevent and eliminate this scourge,

Bearing in mind that many societies are exposed to the scourge of drug trafficking and drug abuse, which causes the physical and mental degradation of human beings, and particularly of young people,

Recalling the statements made by several countries participating in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year, held in San José, Costa Rica, from 3 to 7 October 1983, which pointed out that drug abuse among youth threatens the future of nations,

Supports the proposal to hold in the near future a specialized world conference to study the legal and institutional problems posed by the illicit trade in drugs, as agreed in the Declaration of New York of 1 October 1984, as well as the regional level conference convened by the OAS for January/February 1986;

Decides to submit this resolution to the United Nations General Assembly at its fortieth session, in order that it may consider the advisability of creating, in order to save youth from the scourge of drugs, a regional fund to be used for the purpose of providing aid to developing countries affected by drug trafficking and drug abuse, combating and overcoming the causes which have led to such circumstances, and providing the countries with suitable tools for struggling against these illegal activities, which are rightly considered to be crimes against humanity.

/PROBLEMS OF

PROBLEMS OF YOUTH IN CARIBBEAN ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year,

Recognizing that the Caribbean member countries of ECLAC, and in particular the small island developing countries, have peculiar economic problems deriving from their very small size, limited resource endowment, and extreme economic vulnerability to external factors,

Recognizing further that the youth of these countries are particularly affected by these economic problems,

Cognizant of the fact that by virtue of their per capita income levels, Caribbean countries and in particular the member nations of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are being deprived of their eligibility for vital concessionary financial resources of international agencies such as the World Bank and its affiliate, the International Development Association, on the grounds of "graduation",

Noting that these countries' per capita income levels, while comparing favourably with the per capita income levels of some other developing countries, serve only to mask their fragile economic structures,

Noting also that perhaps the most distressing manifestation of the peculiar economic problems of these States is the chronic lack of employment opportunities and consequent extensive outmigration of the young, especially those with skills,

Recalling resolution 18 (IX) of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee of ECLAC on a Programme of Support for Small Island Developing Countries,

Further recalling resolution 473 (PLEN. 18) of the ECLAC Committee of the Whole on Peculiar Economic Problems of Caribbean Island Developing Countries,

Requests that ECLAC, in its implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year, give urgent and increased attention to the Caribbean island developing countries in terms of the execution of national diagnoses on the situation, prospects and needs of youth and on specific topics such as the social condition of special categories and groups of young people, employment and youth, education and training, health, expectations and projects for the future, young women, and the legal situation of young people;

Also requests that ECLAC further assist by using its resources to emphasize the development requirements of the small Caribbean States in particular.

/Annex

Annex

POLICIES TO COMPLEMENT THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

1. Corollaries for the application of the Regional Plan of Action at a time of crisis

1. When the Regional Plan of Action was adopted it was emphasized that both national strategies and national measures are the private concern of each country, in accordance with its development plans and the economic, social and cultural systems which characterize it. The proposals for national action have merely an indicative value and were not conceived in terms of any particular country. Nonetheless, from the reading of the Plan a certain consensus emerges respecting the mechanisms required for the measures in favour of youth, and it is recognized that reciprocal commitments assumed by agreement would permit a better orientation of intra-regional co-operation in solving common problems and achieving regional and international support.

2. The reaffirmation of the validity of the development aims particularly associated with youth, of the need for specific social integration processes to achieve these aims, and of the types of action that should play an important role in the youth policies of the countries, when made in the present circumstances of economic and social crisis in the region, calls for the recognition of the need to harmonize goals and establish a certain priority in their fulfilment.

3. The achievement of social development depends to some extent on economic growth. It is fundamental, however, that this should be accompanied by a correlative transformation of the social structures and of the procedures of political participation. In so far as the pattern of growth excludes important sectors of the population, modernization becomes superficial and precarious and fails to incorporate the efforts of a decisive part of society in favour of the process of integral development. At the same time, to reconcile the aims of development and of the criteria of social priority there must be institutionalized mechanisms to rank in order of priority the demands of the various social groups. It is crucial to find ways of ranking the demands, incorporating their content and satisfying them adequately so that they do not result in conflicts which will undermine the very process of development.

4. In view of the international economic crisis, it is proposed that the Latin American and Caribbean countries should amplify the very narrow national margins for manoeuvre available to them for reorienting development. This basic imperative can best be expressed by giving the highest priority to measures which will ensure some degree of self-determination in respect of national economic and social policies. It is not a question of achieving autonomy at the expense of the development aims especially associated with youth that are underlined in the Regional Plan of Action, but rather of attempting to attain the goals of growth and equity, of innovation and the achievement of better modes of life, and of the personal and social fulfilment of individuals in a state of freedom and with full participation, through the perfecting of the national capacity for self-determination. A higher degree of self-determination would have a positive effect on the organization of the content and scope of policies and mechanisms aimed at the social integration of youth, since it would result in greater attention to the basic needs of the excluded majorities and the consolidation of democratization.

/5. The

5. The aim of increasing the margin of manoeuvre at the national and regional level through the reduction of dependence and external vulnerability is closely linked with the socio-political objectives of improving income distribution and advancing towards more pluralist and participative societies. At present the States not only have difficulty in using public expenditure as a mechanism of persuasion vis-à-vis the agents of production, but they face social demands increased by the overall loss of income attributable to the economic depression. Thus one of the few courses open to them is to seek new social consensuses; with these it would be possible to increase the degree of economic autonomy, incorporating different groups into a concerted process of formulation and taking of decisions.

6. An exercise in participation such as that described in the preceding paragraph should necessarily begin with youth. In the same order of ideas, it will be necessary to set up mechanisms to increase equity, both in the distribution of the burden of the economic recession and in the sharing of the benefits of a possible reactivation. The opportunities for action and the capacity to concert agreement vary according to the political régimes, socio-cultural traditions and institutional structure of each country, but in all cases there is a real possibility of making progress in fields in which more traditional methods merely create conflicts and social fragmentation. As youth is the part of society most open to change, it is here that the future social and cultural forms should be envisaged. It should be underlined in this respect that recently, in the subregions and countries of Latin America in which there are evident signs of the simultaneous structuring of the nation, the State and the social classes, and in which the challenges of underdevelopment signify above all ideological and political options, youth as a collective entity, or at least a number of juvenile sectors, have been assuming undertakings of social transformation as part of the definition of the condition of youth.

7. The advance towards more pluralistic and participative forms of socioeconomic and political structures also calls for the articulation of educational, cultural and social communication models designed to ensure that the modernization process does not accentuate the consequences of margination and lack of equal opportunities, which define the situation of areas or pockets of underdevelopment and extreme poverty existing inside the countries of Latin America. In this connection it is important to carry out actions designed to change the family, cultural and socioeconomic causes that lead to dissatisfaction and generate feelings of frustration and skepticism, states of evasion, or irregular conduct in youth groups.

8. In seeking ways to overcome the critical present situation by promoting the participation of young people, it is necessary to bear in mind the need to actively promote the solidarity and existence of groups of young people who have been prevented from living a normal childhood because they have grown up in the street, in a state of abandonment, and without access to basic education, or else for these or other reasons have passed straight from childhood to adulthood because they have matured prematurely in work or sexuality. The articulation of social policies designed to cover children in a situation of risk and prevent the social consequences of extreme poverty and margination for children and

/youth forms

youth forms a central aspect of the sensitization, research and social development actions designed to promote new living conditions for the young people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. Changing Latin American and Caribbean society calls for the taking into account of the whole set of situations facing the young people of the region. The need to plan economic growth and social development should not make us lose sight of the central objective of human development, understood as the process of growth in dignity, freedom and conscious participation of the persons, families and social groups making up a community. This brings us to the need to generate family and community spaces capable of favouring the strengthening of personal and national identity within the framework of an extended awareness of the historic project of Latin American integration. In order to attain the human development to which the peoples of our continent aspire --on the basis of the consolidation of their democratization processes-- it is also necessary to overcome the forms of racial, social, cultural or religious discrimination and take care of the special situations of vulnerability which affect some categories of young Latin Americans (ethnic minorities, indigenous groups, disabled persons, marginated rural and urban sectors, young women heads of families, migrants, refugees, young people of irregular conduct, etc.).

10. Living conditions in the big cities of Latin America are such as to foster the generation of serious maladjustments which define a significant part of the profile of the societies of the region and particularly affect the young: consumerism, life in the streets, the abuse of harmful substances, drug trafficking, pollution of the environment, the growth of belts of miserable dwellings lacking essential services and totally devoid of urban planning, juvenile delinquency and prostitution --these are just a few of the problems that arise with the growth of unplanned urban areas where a state of anomie prevails and there are no alternative living projects. These conditions constitute a challenge for the creativity, solidarity and will for change of the rising generations of Latin America --a challenge to work so that by the year 2000 urban areas can be turned into spaces of coexistence, freedom, democracy and justice. "Youth promotes youth": that could be the slogan behind the development of expanded civic consciousness among the members of the present young generations who have had the privilege to gain access to university education or to leading roles, so that they may place their training at the service of their generational peers.

11. An essential question for the solution of the problems of youth is the eradication of both the national and international causes of the deterioration of the quality of life and the lack of possibilities for enjoying the elements which are indispensable for growing, developing and living in a healthy manner and with access to the essential economic opportunities to which every individual has a right. In this respect, it is necessary to overcome the principal problem affecting the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and hence also young people: namely, the consequences of the critical economic situation through which our continent is passing. This is why youth has a fundamental role to play in materializing the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly regarding the establishment of a New International Economic Order which will benefit present and future generations. Initiatives should be promoted which make possible the

/participation of

participation of young people in sensitization actions in support of the introduction of the New International Economic Order through regional integration in favour of peace, mutual respect and economic equity.

2. Proposed measures to complement the Plan of Action, with regard to the crisis

a) General aspects

12. The measures detailed below form a set of proposals complementary to the Regional Plan of Action, based on consideration of the effects of the international economic crisis on the various national societies and on youth.

13. Since the prolongation of the economic crisis in the region is adversely affecting the enormous creative potential of society, and especially that of youth, it is necessary --in order to fulfil the fundamental objectives of social development-- to adopt the following measures or attitudes in order to complement the Regional Plan of Action:

a) To consider the importance of national policies for the development and welfare of youth and for the solution of the problems affecting young people in general, as well as the role of government policies in the eradication of the factors responsible for the fundamental ills which they suffer and which limit their proper cultural, social, political and occupational development.

b) To consider that in the past Latin American societies have traditionally favoured democratic social forms and have sought to replace group confrontations with consensuses on styles of development which ensure growth, equity, efficiency and social innovation.

c) To understand that the functioning of democracy, or social agreements to tackle issues of development or change, are manifestations of the quest for development with social consensus.

d) To consider that innovative policies with regard to youth can point the way to the kinds of societies which it is desired to build.

e) To understand that the various indicators on the situation of youth in recent years postulate two types of problems: i) how to promote forms of identification of youth with democratic political systems and basic social institutions such as education and employment; ii) how to reduce or eliminate the repercussions of the crisis on education, employment, formation of the family, cultural expression, etc.

f) To consider that the various forms of identification of young people do not derive from State-impelled mobilization or assembly actions, but from the creation of social spaces and material conditions that make possible the independent and participative action of young people themselves.

/g) To

g) To understand that the process of the building of participative societies presupposes the recognition of differences of religion, ways of thinking, political orientations and views of the future of society, and that this diversity of attitudes must be respected and harmonized in defining development. This respect for different views must prevail in international relations in order to preserve peace, which is the supreme ethical attainment of our civilizations and a fundamental condition for the development of nations. The acceptance of such plurality of views naturally involves the rejection of violence both in dealing with internal dissent and in setting external disputes.

i) Sensitization action

14. The concept of sensitization action presented in the Regional Plan of Action acquires a special dimension in the present circumstances. The natural tendency of any society in crisis conditions is to preserve the positions occupied by adults and concentrate decision-making in experienced and restricted groups or nuclei, considering that this safeguards efficiency. Both mechanisms tend to displace young people: on the one hand, their incorporation into social and occupational positions which permit them to act as young adults is postponed, and on the other, they are kept out of the process of decision-making at the level of trade unions, parties, community and cultural organizations, etc. If a vigorous proposal aimed at incorporating young people and promoting participative and democratic practices is to receive the support of the societies, many types of action to sensitize public opinion must be carried out.

15. The margination of young people is also due to the persistence of forms of social and cultural discrimination, sometimes concealed by systems of values transmitted by certain structures of education and communication. A process of sensitization at the level of teachers and of those engaged in mass communication could convert secondary schools, universities and mass communication media into means of transmission of positive values with regard to such topics as education for justice, education for solidarity, and education for peace and international understanding.

16. It is also very important, from the point of view of the extension and deepening of democracy and social justice in the region, that young people should appreciate the dignity of labour, that they should value men as individuals and not as mere objects of the relations of production, and that they should assume a positive attitude towards their political, trade union, co-operative and neighbourly commitments.

17. Likewise, the formation of an awareness among young people with regard to the problems of Latin America, the features defining the cultural identity of its peoples, and the process of Latin American integration is yet another objective to be striven for in the context of actions to complement the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace.

18. It is vital that Latin America and the Caribbean should become aware of the great challenge represented by the rapidity and effectiveness with which the central countries have carried out a process of scientific and technological restructuring. These changes have already had enormous and significant penetration

/in industrial

in industrial production and even in everyday social life, and constitute the basis for the comparative advantages of the future at the international level. The new scientific and technological base will not only have projections as regards the place of the region in world trade but also, and what is even more important, as regards forms of production and the organization of its own societies. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean must make a large-scale effort, through ongoing sensitization activities, to create an awareness of the need to plan the development and training of young people as an investment for achieving greater scientific and technological development. In this respect, changes in systems of education and mass communication media must be promoted with a view to raising the social value placed on domestic technological innovation, while at the same time expanding and disseminating information on world scientific and technological progress. There is a broad field for regional co-operation initiatives in respect of these activities.

19. The three main topics of the International Youth Year --participation, development, peace-- are intimately interrelated. In the present circumstances, however, an issue which assumes special importance is that of peace, both between nations and within each one of them. It has therefore been considered desirable to lay particular stress on the sensitization action provided for in the Regional Plan of Action and the renewal of the mutual commitment assumed therein by the countries. The numerous sensitization activities listed in the Plan of Action for the International Youth Year could be extended in time in order to ensure that they are fully integrated into the long-term national strategies. Close co-ordination and co-operation must also be established between the activities carried out on behalf of peace within the framework of the Regional Plan of Action and the activities planned for the International Year of Peace. Thus, steps must be taken to promote dialogue and an exchange of ideas among young people regarding the value of peace and human rights, as well as on the importance of dialogue and negotiation as the most suitable ways of settling conflicts. In this respect, and especially in view of the regional situation, support should be given to the efforts on behalf of peace being carried out by the Contadora Group, and the continuation of this task should be encouraged, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/4 adopted by consensus on 26 October 1984. Action to sensitize the youth of the continent should also cover the problem generated in the Falkland Islands ("Malvinas") by the illegitimate British occupation of them and the presence there of a strong armed contingent, which represent a serious threat to the peace of the region. It would be appropriate, in this connection, to promote the holding of direct talks between the parties which include the question of sovereignty and the withdrawal of British troops from the South Atlantic.*/ Young people should also be sensitized with respect to any other attempt at aggression or interference with the territorial integrity of the various countries of the continent.

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*/ See paragraph 21 of the report of the Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year, in which several delegations stated that they could not agree with the two sentences before the asterisk.

/ii) Substantive

ii) Substantive decisions

20. This section concerns measures taken at the legislative, legal, organizational and financial levels with a view to laying down permanent policies. These policies must serve as the framework for decisions whose specific content at the local and national levels will be defined in the light of the needs and aspirations of youth, the experience collected in pilot projects, and the corrections which it may be necessary to make in the course of time in view of changes in economic and social situations. It is a matter of priority, as stated in the Regional Plan of Action, that policies on youth should be integrated into the policies affecting the different spheres of national life. Thus, for example, it is necessary to link the changes made in rural social organization with the organization of new economic and social forms for rural youth, and it is necessary that general policies, such as those concerned with employment or housing, should be linked with training programmes for young people and measures giving access to suitable dwellings to young couples, and that policies designed to give support to small and medium-scale enterprises should be linked with programmes to facilitate the establishment of individual or collective enterprises by young people.

21. For the full integration of policies and programmes for youth into national development, it is necessary that, in accordance with the circumstances and priorities of each country, national development plans should organically incorporate in each appropriate sector the global objectives, specific goals and forms of operation regarding young people and their participation in society.

b) Action at the national level

22. Although the selection and application of types of action in specific sectors and for each particular category of young people is the responsibility of each country, and consequently the combination of measures adopted will vary according to the national situation and the countries' priorities, some types of action can be described which should play an important role in the overall set of policies and programmes for youth in almost all the countries of the region.

23. In this respect, these guidelines to complement the Regional Plan of Action have been designed to improve the Plan's capacity to respond to the fundamental problems of youth at the present time. The types of action described do not pretend to represent an exhaustive list of the great variety of possible measures, but are rather an illustration of some priority options which could be taken in co-ordination with the general lines of the strategy and the set of substantive and instrumental actions which are to be carried out in a continuous and ongoing manner during the third stage of the Regional Plan of Action. They are divided into two fundamental types of activity and one support methodology.

24. In the first place, the existence of spaces for the free social organization of young people must be promoted through action to further the participation of young people and create communication between social groups of young people of different strata and social subcultures with a view to sharing codes of communication, recognizing social differences and inequalities, and promoting collective solidarity. To this end, actions such as the following could be carried out:

/a) Promoting

a) Promoting the establishment of practices of democratic organization in the various youth groups which will foster an appreciation for the value of human rights and facilitate the participation of young people in the organization and running of educational centres, in keeping with their age and level of knowledge.

b) Promoting the active participation of young people, through governmental and non-governmental institutions, in some areas where they are currently only the passive objects of the action of adults. In accordance with national circumstances, consideration should be given to: i) the place and role which correspond to young people in society and the responsibility of society vis-à-vis youth; ii) the decentralized co-ordination machinery whereby governmental and non-governmental institutions and youth representatives can participate in the formulation and application of policies on youth; iii) means for bringing together young people so that they can express their needs and aspirations, participate in decisions affecting them, and organize their own activities.

c) Facilitating the formulation of proposals and projects by young people with regard to the present situation and future evolution of societies. This action would call for consideration of the reorientation of the normative policies of governmental and non-governmental sectors so that youth may occupy the place which corresponds to it in all aspects of national development, not just as a beneficiary but also as a creative and participating force.

d) Facilitating the organization of young people in social circles where there is no tradition in this respect. This is of particularly high priority with regard to low-level indigenous rural groups and urban marginal groups, especially in the case of women, and involves the general promotion of intermediate and autonomous social organizations in the space between civil society and the State.

e) Facilitating the gaining of experience in social and economic organization by young people through co-operative production, self-management or community organization, with a view to developing participation and seeking alternative development styles.

f) Facilitating action by young people who are committed to showing their solidarity through social work, particularly in community development, rehabilitation of young people who have displayed delinquent or irregular conduct, and work with rural and urban marginal groups. In this field, youth can make an invaluable contribution, which can be facilitated by workshop techniques, cultural expression, education through art and group dynamics. The importance of certain forms of musical expression and other forms of cultural expression in mobilizing young people should be properly appreciated. Such activities can be used to promote participation by skeptical or socially deviate young people in community action and programmes of social solidarity.

g) Emphasizing the participation of young people in the prevention of drug abuse can enhance the effectiveness of the struggle against the social causes of the scourge of addiction, alcoholism and other forms of evasion and self-destruction. Experiments carried out in several countries show that the only effective way to prevent addiction and rehabilitate victims is by presenting an

/alternative lifestyle.

alternative lifestyle. If the phenomenon goes hand-in-hand with the new challenges presented by the development of a unique youth subculture, no one is better qualified than young people themselves to reorient those who are confused or who feel that the future holds little that is good for them.

25. A second type of action would be aimed at favouring specific policies to serve as a response to the social effects of the crisis, which has been reflected in increases in child and juvenile economic activity, an increase in the rate of unemployment among economically active young people, and higher school dropout rates. These actions should simultaneously seek to promote capacities and conditions for a different form of development. Among them are the following:

a) Analysing the characteristics of the young people who enter the labour market at an early age and promoting policies which, with the necessary support, delay such an early type of incorporation (which blocks the young people's future training and labour career) and make it possible to orient these young people towards educational or vocational training centres.

b) Analysing the situation of young unemployed persons and, once information has been obtained in this respect, establishing general employment policies which correct the serious problem of exclusion represented by the high rates of unemployment.

c) Considering the condition of "forced youth" imposed by unemployment, as a point of support for policies designed to make positive use of the "free" time of young people in order to make good their educational shortcomings. This action would require the expansion and improvement of the educational, technical training and vocational training services to serve the young people who have been marginated from them. It should include non-formal education and activities directed both towards the juvenile bases and the mass communication media.

d) Stressing the vital importance of achieving true effective universal primary education or, in the countries which have already fulfilled this objective, secondary education. This measure is of fundamental importance for the social integration and participation of young people from rural and popular urban social sectors. In some countries where cultural traditions stand in the way of greater education of women, it will be necessary to seek greater equality between the sexes. It must be borne in mind that these services must not only be extended, but also be adequate in quality and content. These activities must not only be viewed from the point of view of training young people qualified for the labour markets of the present and the future, but must also be seen as a way of giving young people the opportunity to secure full integration into civil life. Thus, they can become an effective way of expanding the capacity of participation of young people and raising the level of their role as agents and protagonists of social change. Obviously, this calls for a variety of forms of support and economic and social stimulation.

e) Formulating programmes of work and study which promote a better distribution of the jobs and working hours which will be created, but which will be limited to start with. This type of measures will make it possible to carry

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out general educational programmes and programmes of training in the new techniques linked with technological modernization.

f) Reappraising the orientation of the programmes of study in night primary and secondary schools in order to fit them better to the educational needs of young people who have left the day schools and entered the labour force, while at the same time considering the creation of centres of educational attention in areas of popular settlements which would enable young people to continue studying after they have begun to work.

g) Furthering the progressive adaptation of the content of education to the growing demands of development. Among these demands are those deriving from the development of biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics and their growing application to production and social life. In this respect, it is important not to overlook information processing, computation, biotechnology and other scientific activities which are revolutionizing industry and society. A considerable advance in the scientific content of education is essential; otherwise, Latin America and the Caribbean will lag far behind the advance of the frontiers of knowledge in the developed countries. Furthermore, science and technology, quite apart from their importance for production and employment, are of fundamental significance for the formation of values and attitudes. In many countries, they have been considered as mere instruments or as forms of knowledge which are only relevant to a very limited sector of society; in reality, however, they represent forms of thinking which should be opened to the various strata of youth. "Scientific illiteracy" will have much more serious consequences in terms of social exclusion in the near future than in the past.

h) Taking into account the importance of knowledge of the human sciences, both because they create the capacity to understand national, regional and world society and because they develop a critical capacity which is fundamental to the recognition of the historical nature of all forms of social organization and hence to the constant renewal of these forms. Within this context, special attention should be given to the dissemination and teaching of human rights as determinants of a style of social coexistence.

i) Promoting the training, development and organization of young artisans and the teaching of traditional arts and crafts which can offer comparative advantages as regards employment and marketing possibilities. In this regard, experiments carried out in Latin American countries in the area of traditional and non-traditional crafts have shown that they should not be neglected as a potential tool for the development of education and employment. Examples of such activities are those carried out by Manos del Uruguay, Salón de Encuentro Betim (Brazil), Artesanías Neuquinas, etc.

j) Promoting family education, sex education, psycho-pedagogical services and professional, vocational and psycho-social orientation for adolescents and youth. Priority should be given to these aspects within the context of a social policy aimed at the human development of the youth of the region. In these fields, the interdisciplinary approach offers ample opportunity to prevent high-risk situations, helps strengthen the stability of family ties and reduces behavioural maladjustment resulting from the frustration of expectations or stressful situations which are inevitable in times of change and crisis.

/k) Promoting

k) Promoting activities to further solidarity between young students and young rural, indigenous or underprivileged urban groups, thus helping the former to gain awareness of the problems of the others, while enabling young people from the underprivileged groups to have a chance to create their own specific forms of youth organization and expression. Among such activities, special mention may be made of programmes of the "youth educates youth" type, which mobilize the more educated strata to help in the training of the less educated.

l) Considering programmes of employment of social significance, with payment of a subsistence allowance, in order to establish regular action of social and cultural interest such as basic health attention, preschool attention, organization and running of cultural centres, co-ordination of co-operative projects, etc.

m) Reactivating viable manufacturing sectors producing basic consumer goods and others which offer comparative advantages, and exploring the possibility of integral industrialization through the application of appropriate technologies to the use of agricultural, forestry and fishery resources. This action should be viewed not only as a way of securing the global reactivation of the production structure of the region, but also as a way of expanding the range of employment opportunities open to young people.

n) Promoting co-operative enterprises of young people in the agricultural, industrial and services sectors, with adequate financial and technical support, as a way of increasing employment and establishing communal and democratic management mechanisms in economic activities.

o) Providing adequate information services on trends in the labour market for young people and helping them, through employment services, to obtain jobs.

26. A specific youth policy requires adequate intersectoral articulation and a holistic and interdisciplinary approach leading to an in-depth reflection on the social, cultural, political and economic problems which affect society, as well as on the framework of values and conflicts which identify the movements that attract young people. In view of the changing regional situation and the uncertainty over the future, the support methodology for the actions suggested in the paragraphs above should be based on capacity for the provision of regular information on conditions in the areas of education, work, family formation, state of physical and psychological health, etc., of young people. Furthermore, there should be suitably trained departments for appraising the participation programmes carried out by non-governmental organizations or inspired by government policies. The development of a suitable programme of statistics and analysis is essential in order to be able to periodically evaluate the results of policies and programmes for youth and establish a dynamic and permanent system for formulating and effecting adjustment proposals.

c) Action at the regional level

27. The programme of action at the regional level is mainly conceived as a form of support for national activities and for exchange and co-operation among countries for the application of the strategy contained in the Regional Plan of Action.

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28. The creation of opportunities, channels and means for the participation of youth should be, primarily, a creative exercise carried out by the young people themselves. In this regard, governmental entities should encourage experiments in which youth participate in decision-making, programme planning and project evaluation. In this area of programming and policy formulation, it is also useful to foster contacts between the generations and a learning process conceived as interaction leading to a mutual change of attitudes and viewpoints, based on the analysis of a particular problem. This is but one application of the fundamental principles of the interdisciplinary approach to a field which presents a challenge that so far has not been adequately met: that of youth in a period of change and crisis.

29. Within the resources available, and using extrabudgetary resources whenever they are available within the framework of the work programme in the area of social development, ECLAC could:

a) Continue to carry out work designed to fulfil the goals and objectives laid down in the Regional Plan of Action, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) and other agencies of the United Nations system and through co-operation agreements with regional intergovernmental bodies, subregional bodies, the member countries of ECLAC and non-governmental organizations.

b) Give technical support to the countries, at the request of governments, in the execution of activities designed to increase the capacity of governments to develop, strengthen and evaluate their policies and programmes for youth.

c) Continue the execution of national diagnoses on the situation, prospects and needs of youth, as well as on specific topics such as the social conditions of specific categories and groups of young people, employment and youth, education and training, health, expectations and projects for the future, young women, and the legal situation of young people. These studies should be action-oriented and should be widely disseminated among the countries. In carrying out such studies, co-operation with national and regional research institutes and organizations should be stimulated in order to promote activities aimed at analysing the area of youth.

d) Emphasize the need to improve statistical information and other forms of knowledge of youth, especially as regards education, employment, health, family formation and housing, with the aim of creating a data base which will permit the timely analysis of information so as to be able to appraise and improve the policies and programmes regarding youth.

e) Hold regional and technical seminars on questions and problems relating to youth with the aim of preparing specific action-oriented recommendations.

f) Prepare and deliver courses on problems, programmes and policies concerning youth. Promote awareness among youth of the fundamental United Nations agreements, especially regarding racial discrimination, apartheid, human rights, the establishment of a New International Economic Order, the right to development and self-determination.

/g) Organize

g) Organize exchanges between countries in relation to experience and knowledge of the problems of youth, and stimulate forms of international voluntary service by young people.

h) Organize horizontal co-operation between countries in activities related to youth, at both the governmental and non-governmental level.

i) Continue activities which place the topic of youth in the perspective of alternative styles of development for the region and the achievement of the objectives of equity, participation, peace, and development of the potential of young people.